

REMARKS

This application is a United States non-provisional patent application which claims the benefit of United States patent application no. 60/402,117, filed on August 8, 2002.

Cancellation of Claims. The applicant cancels claims 1-68 without prejudice. The applicant does not waive any right to have these claims examined without limitation in scope in a subsequent continuation, division, or similar application.

In the original application, an unusually large number of claims were presented in order to adequately claim the various aspects of the present invention(s) in dependent and alternatively independent fashions. Thus, the applicants have voluntarily reduced the number of claims to a single independent claim (with the accompanying dependent claims) for consideration in this application so as to assist the examiners in their efforts and without waiving the right to add additional dependent claims or a corresponding set of method claims.

The enclosed fee sheet is based on the number of claims remaining after this preliminary amendment.